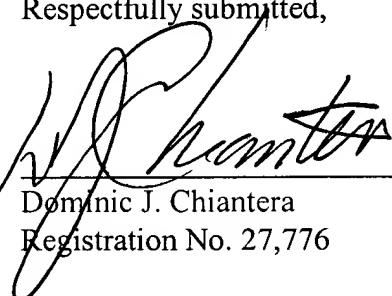


Remarks

This preliminary amendment amends the specification and claims of the international application. Consideration of this application for National Stage under Chapter I, as amended by this preliminary amendment, is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/02/01

By: 

Dominic J. Chiantera
Registration No. 27,776

Moore & Van Allen
P.O. Box 3843
Durham, NC 27702-3843
Telephone: (919) 286-8000
Facsimile: (919) 286-8199